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## PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

## Progress made in the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

### Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. BACKGROUND

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, entrusted the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the function of preparing the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders.

2. The Commission considered the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at its first session, held at Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1992. A note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/1992/5), prepared in pursuance of Assembly resolution 46/152, was submitted for consideration by the Commission. This report dealt, inter alia, with substantive preparations, organizational arrangements and possible substantive topics for the Ninth Congress.

3. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 1992/24 of 30 July 1992, dealing with preparations for the Ninth Congress, in which it, inter alia, requests the Commission to finalize, at its second session, the provisional agenda for the Ninth Congress, the items of which should be selected in accordance with the priorities set by the Commission for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and to make its recommendations to the Council.

## II. SUBSTANTIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PREPARATIONS

4. The necessary resources for the Ninth Congress will be included in the budget for the biennium 1994-1995, to be approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in 1993. The same budget will include resources for the related information campaign to be carried out by the Department of Public Information, as well as the resources required to ensure the participation at the Congress of the least developed countries. The Secretariat, however, has taken the first steps in the long preparatory process. Thus, in pursuance of Council resolution 1992/24, a draft discussion guide (E/CN.15/1993/L.1) and draft rules of procedure (E/CN.15/1993/L.2) are before the Commission for further action.

### A. Regional preparatory meetings

5. After consultations with the regional commissions and the Secretariat, the following dates and sites of the five regional preparatory meetings were proposed by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, and have been duly approved:

(a) Asian and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting at Bangkok, from 17 to 21 January 1994;

(b) African Regional Preparatory Meeting at Addis Ababa, from 14 to 18 February 1994;

(c) European Regional Preparatory Meeting at Vienna, from 28 February to 4 March 1994;

(d) Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting at Santiago, from 7 to 11 March 1994;

(e) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting at Amman, from 20 to 24 March 1994.

6. The resources required for holding these meetings, including the funds needed to ensure the participation in them of the least developed countries, will also be provided for in the budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

7. The Secretariat intends to take the opportunity provided by the regional preparatory meetings to inform participating Member States of the new rules of procedure for the congresses, as recommended by the Commission at its second session for adoption by the Council at its substantive session in 1993.

8. It is hoped that Governments will take advantage of the regional meetings to formulate draft resolutions and recommendations to be submitted to the Ninth Congress through the Commission at its third session.

9. The dates proposed for the third session of the Commission are 25 April-6 May 1994. The Commission will thus have the opportunity to examine at that session the reports of all five regional preparatory meetings, including any draft resolutions and recommendations contained therein.

## B. Ninth Congress

### 1. Dates

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/152, called on the Commission to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the crime prevention and criminal justice programme of work, as submitted by the congresses. Accordingly, the dates proposed are 13 to 24 February 1995 for the Ninth Congress, and 24 April to 5 May 1995 for the fourth session of the Commission. The conclusions and recommendations of the Congress could thus be examined by the Commission at an early date, and then forwarded to the regular session of the Council in 1995. Approval of these dates is also pending.

### 2. Appointment of a Secretary-General

11. Maintaining the practice established by the Council in its resolution 1984/45 of 25 May 1984 with respect to the Seventh Congress, and continued on the occasion of the Eighth Congress, a Secretary-General for the Ninth Congress will be appointed at the appropriate time.

### 3. Provisional agenda

12. In its resolution 1992/24, the Council, on recommendation of the Commission, listed four substantive topics that could be included in the provisional agenda of the Ninth Congress. These topics are:

(a) International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law: promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(b) Action against national and transnational economic, organized and environmental crime: national experiences and international cooperation;

(c) Criminal justice systems: management and improvement of police, prosecution, courts and corrections;

(d) Crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crimes in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims: assessment and new perspectives.

### 4. Format

13. The General Assembly, in the annex to its resolution 46/152, paragraph 30(d), stated that "action-oriented research workshops on topics selected by the Commission, as part of the programme of a congress, and ancillary meetings associated with the congresses should be encouraged."

14. At its first session, the Commission noted that three guiding elements should be given to the organization of research and demonstration workshops. 1/ These were:

(a) Their ability to concentrate on current trends and issues in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) Their research and/or demonstration value;

(c) Their use as a forum for the effective exchange of expertise and experience.

15. On the assumption that the Ninth Congress will cover 10 working days, as has been the case for previous congresses, and taking the foregoing into account, the Secretariat submits the following arrangements for consideration by the Commission:

(a) The opening ceremony will take place in the morning, on the first day;

(b) The afternoon of that day will be devoted to a general session for the exchange of information on specific needs of countries and regions and on possible sources of technical assistance to carry out concrete projects;

(c) Starting in the morning on the second day, the work of the Congress will be handled by the plenary and two committees of the whole, all three being provided with interpretation services in the six official languages;

(d) The plenary will serve as the forum for major addresses by heads of delegations and intergovernmental and regional officials. On the last day of the Congress, the plenary will examine the recommendations and conclusions of the committees of the whole and approve the final report;

(e) Each committee of the whole will deal with two of the four substantive topics. They will, however, be reconstituted as workshops on the third and fourth days of the debate on each of the substantive topics. After the workshops, the committees could discuss the results and adopt the resulting conclusions and recommendations. The Congress could thus integrate four two-day workshops, one for each substantive topic. Should some of the workshops be of shorter duration, the extra time could be devoted to additional workshops, subject to not imposing sensory overload.

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 10 (E/1992/30), chap. IV, para. 94.

16. Annex I provides an overview of the proposed organizational arrangements.

## 5. Workshop subjects

17. In order to facilitate the work of the Commission, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the regional and interregional institutes, has prepared eight workshop projects, from which the Commission may wish to choose four, that is, one for each substantive topic.

18. These eight proposals, related to the tentative substantive topics for the Ninth Congress, which in turn are related to the priorities selected by the Commission for the crime prevention and criminal justice programme of work, are as follows:

(a) Topic I:

(i) Development, analysis and policy use of international criminal justice information;

(ii) Extradition and international cooperation: the implementation of extradition principles in national legislation;

(b) Topic 2:

(i) Environmental protection at national and international levels: potentials and limits of criminal justice;

(ii) Practical measures to combat corruption by public officials;

(c) Topic 3:

(i) Computerization of criminal justice operations;

(ii) Mass media and crime prevention;

(d) Topic 4:

(i) Urban planning and architectural design in crime prevention and control;

(ii) Violence prevention and control.

19. Summary formats of the possible workshops, setting out the objectives, scope, participants and intended results, are given in annex II.

20. It is recommended that the following four workshops be planned, subject to the concurrence of the Commission:

(a) Development, analysis and policy use of international criminal justice information;

(b) Environmental protection at national and international levels;

(c) Computerization of criminal justice information;

(d) Urban planning and architectural design in crime prevention and control.

## 6. Observations on the workshops

21. First, given the general reorientation of the programme, there should be more workshops than those established at the Seventh Congress (one research workshop) and the Eighth Congress (one research workshop, one demonstration workshop).

22. Secondly, the number of workshops should be determined by reference to the resources available for their organization. In principle, while the Secretariat would assume the role of general workshop coordinator, the institutes cooperating within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme would need to take the primary financial and organizational responsibility for organizing the workshops, as was the case with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) at the Seventh Congress, and with UNICRI and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, at the Eighth Congress. While the Secretariat will explore the readiness of any institute to undertake that primary responsibility wherever an interest has been expressed in doing so, there may also be an opportunity for national criminal justice research institutes to offer assistance to regional and interregional institutes that commit themselves to organizing workshops. The Commission is therefore invited to look into the question of possible financial and logistical support that Member States may wish to offer to those national institutes.

23. Thirdly, the success of a greater number of workshops with a diversified and interdisciplinary agenda relating to the topics of the congress will require experts in criminal justice and from other professions (technical cooperation specialists, urban planners, television journalists etc.) who may usefully contribute to the preparation and proceedings of the workshops. Consideration should be given to including such persons in national delegations.

24. Fourthly, it may be difficult for developing countries to provide for interdisciplinary representation because of financial constraints.

25. In addition to provisions that allow the least developed countries to send one representative to the Ninth Congress out of its budget, the Commission may wish to invite Governments of developed countries to explore through their developmental aid agencies ways and means of financing participation in the Congress of additional representatives from developing countries. In view of the planned focus of the Congress on technical cooperation projects, those donor agencies may be interested in identifying possible recipient countries before the Congress, and in covering the expenses of the additional participants.

26. Finally, while it is clear that action against national and transnational criminality (one of the possible topics of the Ninth Congress) will be of major importance at the Congress, the work priorities for the period from 1992 to 1996 set forth by the Council in section VI, paragraph 1, of its resolution 1992/22 include the theme of crime prevention in urban areas, as well as efficiency, fairness and improvement in the management and administration of criminal justice and related systems, thus addressing three other topics of the Congress. It therefore seems advisable that the subjects of workshops recommended by the Commission should cover each subject in the provisional agenda of the Ninth Congress.

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE NINTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

| Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Opening of the Congress | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 1<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 2<br>Committee of the whole | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 1<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 2<br>Committee of the whole |
| Plenary meeting<br>Technical cooperation meeting | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 1<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 2<br>Committee of the whole | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 1<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 2<br>Committee of the whole |
| **Day 6** | **Day 7** | **Day 8** | **Day 9** | **Day 10** |
| Plenary meeting<br>Topic 3<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 4<br>Committee of the whole | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 3<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 4<br>Committee of the whole | Adoption of the report |
| Plenary meeting<br>Topic 3<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 4<br>Committee of the whole | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Workshop<br>Workshop | Plenary meeting<br>Topic 3<br>Committee of the whole<br>Topic 4<br>Committee of the whole | Adoption of the report |

Notes: There will be daily plenary meetings throughout the Congress, four topical committees of the whole which introduce and recapitulate each topic, and four days of workshops.

One technical cooperation meeting on day 1 is designed to provide assistance to countries in acquiring information about sources of funding of technical cooperation projects and in identifying multilateral and bilateral projects. In addition, every workshop topic will have a component on how to obtain the particular service or technology discussed by that workshop.

## Annex II

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

### A. Provisional topic 1(a): Research workshop on development, analysis and policy use of international criminal justice information

#### 1. Objectives

1. The objectives of the workshop will be to develop reliable data sources and strategies for collecting criminal justice information and to design methods of data analysis for the application of such information in policy monitoring and evaluation.

#### 2. Scope

2. The research workshop will consist of four parts:

(a) Presentation of international criminal justice information (United Nations surveys of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems, international victimization surveys, review of the activities of the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network, and a report on crime and justice in the world);

(b) Presentation of selected examples of analysis and policy use of criminal justice information;

(c) Panel discussion on the development of international and national criminal justice information for analysis and policy use;

(d) Recommendations concerning the development, analysis and policy use of criminal justice information.

#### 3. Participants

3. Participants will include government representatives, criminal justice statisticians and researchers, representatives of the Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat, and representatives of development aid agencies.

#### 4. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

4. The workshop will have a significant potential for improving national statistical capabilities in the criminal justice area, especially those of developing countries. The demonstration of statistical databases and of the methods of their establishment and maintenance will provide good examples of data collection and management. This will enable practical assistance to be rendered by developed to developing countries.

(b) Policy impact

5. In addition to the publication of records of the proceedings, the elaboration of a set of recommendations by the workshop is envisaged, with

the emphasis on technical assistance, pilot, demonstration and training projects in developing countries and a further strengthening of United Nations activities concerned with an international criminal justice database and related matters. The participation of researchers and policy makers in the workshop may considerably enhance the practical impact of its recommendations and possible follow-up projects.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

6. The workshop will provide a mechanism for identifying the needs of countries in developing criminal justice statistical datebases and organizing training seminars for statistical staff. Training projects that may be organized for criminal justice statisticians as a follow-up to the workshop may be instrumental in carrying out its recommendations.

## B. Provisional topic 1(b): Research workshop on extradition and international cooperation: the implementation of extradition principles in national legislation

### 1. Objectives

7. The objectives of the workshop will be to increase the participants' awareness of the role and value of extradition, to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to States wishing to extend their extradition relations, to provide information on extradition procedures and to approve a draft technical guide on extradition.

### 2. Scope

8. The scope of the workshop will include consideration of existing extradition arrangements of participating States, the possible ratification of existing treaties, the extension of extradition treaty relations through developing appropriate legislation, and the training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police on the application of extradition laws and procedures.

### 3. Participants

9. Participants will include government officials from ministries of justice, foreign ministries and ministries of the interior, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and legal experts with a sound knowledge of the principles and practice of extradition law. In addition, experts from interregional organizations with a special interest in extradition will be invited to attend.

### 4. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

10. The workshop will provide a mechanism for extending extradition relations and promoting the Model Treaty on Extradition. a/

(b) Policy impact

11. The workshop will heighten the awareness of Member States of the value of a policy commitment to extradition and of extending extradition relations.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

12. The country presentations will give Member States the opportunity to exchange information on their needs, goals and achievements in the area. This will in turn raise awareness of legislative drafting, training and other forms of technical assistance available. North-South dialogue will be enhanced on issues affecting viable extradition practices.

13. The workshop will lay the groundwork for discussions on future forms of technical cooperation.

14. The Congress will comment on and approve a draft technical guide on extradition based on the Model Treaty on Extradition, which could be made available later to requesting States.

15. The report of the Congress will be used by the Secretariat to plan operational activities. In particular, the workshop will provide material that will be of assistance in the training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and police in the application of extradition laws and procedures.

16. The record of the proceedings of the workshop will be assembled by the Secretariat as an international compilation of information on extradition, made available to requesting States and used to prepare training courses and curricula.

## C. Provisional topic 2(a): Demonstration workshop on environmental protection at national and international levels: potential and limits of criminal justice

### 1. Objectives

17. The objectives of the workshop will be to provide information about possible legal responses to pollution incidents in different jurisdictions, focusing on the role of the criminal law, and to develop recommendations on the future development of the law in this area.

### 2. Scope

18. Case-studies of legal responses to serious pollution incidents in a number of different countries and legal systems will be presented by experts in the field and discussed by participants in the light of preselected questions highlighting important unresolved issues. Background information on recent comparative research will be provided by institutes. A computer software package for practical research in this area will be demonstrated. Case-studies will be selected by a working group of specialists, including specialists from participating institutes. Selections will be made according to three areas of concern; transboundary crimes; operations of facilities resulting in considerable environmental damage; and polluting practices. A mixture of geographical areas and levels of development will be sought.

### 3. Participants

19. Participants will include government representatives, officials of environmental agencies, representatives of other United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as institutes with an interest in the area, and a small panel of experts to present case-studies.

### 4. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

20. The workshop will provide a mechanism for coordinating the development of environmental criminal law in different jurisdictions. An agreed framework concerning criminal conduct in this area will assist member countries in meeting development objectives without the latter being jeopardized by pollution.

21. Results will include publication of the record of the proceedings and the information exchanged at the workshop for dissemination through technical advisory services and training packages and for distribution to interested parties;

(b) Policy impact

22. Critical policy issues requiring consideration by States reviewing their law in this area will be highlighted.

23. A set of guidelines will be produced identifying priorities for further research by institutes, academic organizations and other interested parties. A set of recommendations on policy principles will be elaborated.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

24. The workshop will provide a forum for identifying and matching the needs and resources of Member States for technical cooperation in this area.

25. A comparative summary of research undertaken by institutes will be made available to participants, together with a selected bibliography to serve as an international reference book covering the period from 1989 to 1994.

26. Strategies for dealing with international pollution incidents will be identified.

27. Legislative mechanisms and their effectiveness will be identified and discussed, creating a resource for future technical cooperation. A computer software package for practical research will be demonstrated, and follow-up training in its use made available.

## D. Provisional topic 2(b): Research workshop on practical measures to combat corruption by public officials

### 1. Objectives

28. The objectives of the workshop will be to highlight practical measures to eliminate or reduce corrupt practices by public officials. These will include:

(a) Reviewing the relevant criminal and administrative laws presented by Member States for discussion, and outlining approaches to strengthening such legislation where necessary;

(b) Promoting increased awareness among participants of the importance of preventing corrupt practices by officials, and of the links between corruption and other serious criminal activities such as organized and transnational crime;

(c) The application and review of the manual on practical measures against corruption, which was prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A.CONF.144/8);

(d) Publication of the records of the proceedings to serve as a valuable resource for the training of judges, prosecutors, laywers and police in the effective prevention of corruption;

(e) The creation of increased opportunities for technical cooperation in this area.

## 2. Scope

29. The workshop will cover criminal and administrative legislative measures to counter corruption, as well as exploring and discussing its linkages with organized and transnational crime. In addition, the workshop will examine experiences relating to corruption in the context of public procurement and international aid, and seek to identify modalities for the prevention and control of such practices. Participants will be invited to bring examples of legislation used to counter corruption by public officials, to share experiences in the application of such legislation, and to assess its effectiveness. This will also include legislation for the identification, tracing and forfeiture of the property and funds obtained by corrupt practices, and economic sanctions against corporate offenders.

30. Selected practical case-studies will be discussed, with reference to the manual on practical measures against corruption.

31. Administrative mechanisms and procedures, including but not limited to codes of conduct, for the prevention of corrupt activities and for the detection, investigation and prosecution of corrupt officials will be reviewed and discussed.

32. Measures for the training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police in the effective prevention of corruption will be examined.

## 3. Participants

33. Participants will include government officials from ministries of justice and ministries of the interior, judges, prosecutors, lawyers with an interest in the prevention of corrupt practices and expertise in the area, as well as representatives of the private sector, particularly of corporations with operations in many countries. In addition, experts from international organizations with a special interest in the area will be invited to participate.

## 4. Results

### (a) Multiplier effect

34. The workshop will provide a mechanism for Member States to increase their knowledge of measures to prevent corruption.

35. Bilateral investigative and judicial assistance treaties will be facilitated by a mutual appreciation of the importance of this area by members of the international community. For example, a coordinated approach to legislation in

different jurisdictions could be of assistance in the freezing and seizure of assets obtained by corrupt means in one country and banked in another.

(b) Policy impact

36. The workshop will help to heighten awareness among States of the importance of a policy commitment to adopt measures to prevent corruption.

37. The discussion of the linkage between corruption of public officials and organized and transnational crime will assist States in developing integrated crime prevention legislation and devising other measures to prevent and control the problem.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

38. The country presentations will give Member States the opportunity to exchange information on their needs, goals and achievements in this area. This will in turn raise awareness of legislative drafting, training and other forms of technical assistance available. North-South dialogue will be enhanced on related issues.

39. The workshop would lay the groundwork for discussions on future forms of technical cooperation.

40. The use of the manual on practical measures against corruption and the draft international code of conduct for public officials will be promoted. Feedback on their application by Member States will be of value in reviewing their effectiveness and revising them if required.

41. The report of the Congress will be available to the Secretariat to plan operational activities. In particular the workshop will provide material that will be of assistance in training judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police in corruption prevention, investigation and prosecution laws and techniques.

42. The records of the proceedings will be assembled by the Secretariat as an international compilation of information on practical measures against corruption.

## E. Provisional topic 3(a): Demonstration workshop on computerization of criminal justice information

### 1. Objectives

43. The objectives of the workshop will be:

(a) To offer a programme that shows how to improve criminal justice management through the transfer of information technology and innovation in the context of multilateral and bilateral technical aid programmes;

(b) To bring together experts on computerization, policy makers and administrators of criminal justice to exchange information about technologies available for application;

(c) To demonstrate the value of information technology as a vital tool to assist in achieving an effective and efficient criminal justice system;

(d) To show how current and emerging information technologies can be acquired, implemented and managed in the criminal justice environment and in the context of particular criminal justice applications;

(e) To consider legal developments involved in the prevention and prosecution of computer crimes.

2. Scope

44. The workshop will cover:

(a) Major criminal justice applications of information technology, both currently in use and emerging;

(b) The most cost-effective use of the tools of information technology;

(c) Management technology and the management needs of criminal justice agencies;

(d) Computer programs for investigation of computer crimes and new legal developments in prevention and prosecution of computer crime on the basis of a manual to be published by the United Nations by the end of 1993;

(e) Strategies for policy orientation and training seminars for decision makers, government officials and trainers to facilitate the introduction, use and further development of information systems;

(f) Projects for bilateral and multilateral assistance in design and implementation of computerization projects.

45. An exhibit workshop demonstrating hardware and software applications in criminal justice will be included. The exhibit workshop will run concurrently with the seminar, with additional hours scheduled as appropriate. There will be exhibits of national delegations and leading information technology companies, as well as special demonstrations, including the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network and the United Nations electronic multilingual thesaurus.

46. There will be from two to four keynote papers, as well as presentations by invited experts, national delegations and representatives of technical aid agencies of donor countries, and leading information technology companies.

3. Participants

47. Participants in the workshop will include government representatives, technical assistance experts and companies in the private sector.

4. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

48. There is considerable interest worldwide in sharing experience in the computerization of criminal justice information. Demonstrations, discussions and new proposals in this area attract the attention of criminal justice professionals. The availability of cost-effective information technologies is also

a factor influencing trends in criminal justice computerization. The potential to promote various projects will therefore be significant.

49. The promotion of compatible computer systems will facilitate the exchange of information, which might otherwise be difficult. The international community and Member States will benefit from the availability of better-quality and more readily accessible criminal justice information.

(b) Policy impact

50. The workshop will help to define policy options with respect to steps that might be taken to further the technical cooperation programme on computerization of criminal justice information.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

51. The workshop will be helpful in promoting projects involving computerization of criminal justice information as a basis for bilateral and multilateral technical assistance. It will also open avenues for training and exchanging criminal justice staff involved in computerization, including the training of staff from developing countries. Availability of cost-effective information technologies combined with a possibility of computerizing local offices will make their application possible for developing countries.

## F. Provisional topic 3(b): Demonstration workshop on mass media and crime prevention

### 1. Objective

52. The objectives of the workshop will be to encourage the concrete exchange of views and experience and the elaboration of draft policy recommendations on the role of the mass media in crime prevention, in the context of the divergent needs of developing and developed countries.

### 2. Scope

53. The workshop will include a review of video programmes on crime prevention. After each showing there will be a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a particular video presentation, followed by a discussion between representatives of the news media and criminal justice officials from the country of origin of the programme (lasting from 60 to 90 minutes). It will inform the audience both of the intentions of the participants in developing the video programme and of the reception it had within the criminal justice constituency and the population at large.

### 3. Type of demonstration

54. Following an invitation to submit video programmes on crime prevention for demonstration and review, a panel composed of criminal justice experts and news media officials will select the 10 best video programmes as recipients of the United Nations award for the best video presentation on crime prevention. The video programmes will be shown to the Congress participants.

### 4. Participants

55. Participants in the workshop will include government representatives, criminal justice officials, officials from the mass media and psychologists.

### 5. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

56. The workshop and its results will have a multiplier effect, not only because of the international awards to be granted for the best video programmes, but also because of the attraction it will have to participating mass media. This will improve the coverage of crime issues discussed at the Congress, especially in a television format most effective for dissemination of information.

(b) Policy impact

57. The workshop will also have a considerable policy impact stemming from the appropriate selection of its participants and from the possible elaboration of United Nations policy recommendations on the role of the mass media in crime prevention.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

58. In this context, a number of projects linking mass media professionals and criminal justice professionals may be developed by the Secretariat and cooperating institutes and at the national level, with a view to promoting better understanding of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice objectives through mass media campaigns (including scholarships, training etc.). As there exists a considerable gap between the experience and expertise of developing and developed countries, the above-mentioned projects may help to enhance North-South cooperation.

## G. Provisional topic 4(a): Demonstration workshop on urban planning and architectural design in crime prevention and control

### 1. Objectives

59. The objective of the workshop will be to facilitate development of technical cooperation projects involving improved crime control and treatment of offenders as a component of comprehensive national settlement policies. Member States will be requested to identify housing and other development projects and correctional institutions. They will be invited to demonstrate and discuss the plans at the workshops so as to facilitate offers of technical assistance to interested countries.

### 2. Scope

60. The scope of the workshop will include the following areas dealt with by two panels: crime prevention through urban planning (panel 1); and architecture of prisons: humanization of offender's detention (panel 2).

61. Panel 1 will address the following areas:

(a) Redesign of guides for public housing; model ordinances and building codes for materials, lighting, stairwell design, housing density etc.; and mixed land-use and zoning laws;

(b) Strategic planning procedures; demonstrations and explanations of computer-aided design and geographical information systems; and forecasting techniques;

(c) Design of guides for pedestrian walkways and underpasses, transit stations and fare booths; multi-agency cooperation (police, transit authority, engineering) for safe and secure transit operations;

(d) Use of physical devices in crime prevention (closed circuit television, lighting, alarms, fences, locks etc.); crime prevention through environmental design.

62. Panel 2 will address the following areas:

(a) Basic construction standards of prison facilities; requisite facility needs; basic cell needs; crowding rates; minimal service requirements;

(b) Ways and means of modernization of old prison facilities; retrofitting techniques and guides for modernization standards; cost-benefit analyses of modernization as opposed to new construction;

(c) Special needs of developing countries in the context of alternatives to imprisonment; alternative sentencing options; halfway houses; electronic monitoring.

63. The type of demonstration will be guided by the projects submitted. They will contain a narrative and technical description, including the rationale of the national project under review and their possible value for North-South cooperation. A committee, composed of appointed criminal justice experts, urban planners, architects and development aid specialists, will review the preliminary submissions and recommend selection of a reasonable number (less than 10) of housing or other urban development projects, and a number of prison projects for the demonstration workshop. These projects will be selected with the emphasis on geographical representation and a balance between different types of urban and criminal justice environments. The technical description will be displayed publicly at the site of the workshop.

## 4. Participants

64. Participants in the workshop will be criminal justice experts, urban planners, architects and development aid specialists.

## 5. Results

### (a) Multiplier effect

65. The workshop will be a forum for demonstrating, discussing and improving urban and architectural projects conducive to more effective and humane crime prevention and control. Depending on other results of the Congress workshop, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme may develop a model interdisciplinary course syllabus for interregional, regional and subregional interdisciplinary training schemes on crime control and treatment of offenders as a part of broader settlement policies. This would help to systematize and integrate expertise available in various disciplines and make it available worldwide.

### (b) Policy impact

66. The proceedings of the workshop followed up by possible recommendations will form two United Nations technical guides on the subject of urban planning

and crime prevention and humanization of detention of offenders, to be issued after the Ninth Congress. In conjunction with the training schemes considered above, they may become influential instruments in implementing human settlement policies developed by the United Nations and contribute to improvements in urban conditions in requesting countries.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

67. The attendance of donor and recipient countries may lead to undertaking human settlement projects which include crime prevention components. In view of the rate of development in the southern hemisphere, such projects will assist with their urbanization and industrialization in such a way as to reduce criminogenic factors. As far as the prison systems of those countries are concerned, such projects may be helpful in improving the treatment of offenders.

## H. Provisional topic 4(b): Demonstration workshop on violence prevention and control

### 1. Objectives

68. The objectives of the workshop will be to consider different forms of violence within societies undermining peace, security and the development process, and to identify national and international strategies and techniques for dealing with them.

### 2. Scope

69. The workshop will survey the range of phenomena designated as "violence", and their psychosocial dynamics, correlates and contexts, in order to allow for an in-depth analysis of selected types of violence for which specific counterstrategies could be devised. The workshop will cover a range of issues relating to interpersonal violence, such as violent "street crime" (including stranger-to-stranger violence), gang violence, ethnic strife and civil disturbances, terrorist activities, drug-related violence, violence against migrants, prison violence and domestic violence. Policy guidelines and practical techniques for curtailing and counteracting representative forms of violence will be proposed, including different promising options for certain kinds of situations.

### 3. Participants

70. Participants in the workshop will include government representatives, crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners, behavioural experts, conflict resolution specialists, researchers, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant United Nations organizations and institutes.

### 4. Results

(a) Multiplier effect

71. The results of the discussion of techniques for the resolution of conflicts, including both crisis intervention and long-term approaches, will be used in future training courses, conducted in cooperation with the institutes

for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and other organizations. By furthering knowledge and expertise in this field, cadres of qualified personnel can be developed and decision makers alerted to the potential for employing them in applying policies to reduce violence at various levels. The use of mediators as an alternative or adjunct to formal criminal justice is institutionalized in some places; elswhere alternative dispute resolution centres are multiplying. The positive (and negative) experience with such approaches could be codified to complement the findings of the workshop and of follow-up studies, and be widely disseminated. Much more remains to be done to promote less violent societies, and the workshop could be one such effort. It will also counteract the repressive connotation of "crime prevention and control" and facilitate multidisciplinary strategies for its implementation.

(b) Policy impact

72. The workshop should help participants to understand the causes of violence and the preventive measures that may be taken. Areas for further policy-oriented research should be identified for interested institutes and academic organizations. The methods and techniques for dealing with different kinds of violence could be outlined and systematized, with concrete examples. Attention will be focused on the use of mediation and conciliation techniques in the criminal justice and correctional process (for example prison violence) and other means of defusing violence (for example new law enforcement techniques for crowd control). The techniques include new approaches to risk assessment for violent offenders, management of terrorist incidents, and approaches to dealing with domestic violence. Implications for crime prevention, educational, public health, social and media policies will also be considered, as will the provision of safeguards against victimization through violence and assistance to victims of violent crime.

(c) Technical cooperation value of the workshop

73. A project proposal could be developed to seek foundation support or to provide other follow-up at both the field and academic levels. Collaborative initiatives could be taken to test certain hypotheses in a cross-cultural context, and to apply techniques for the prevention and control of violence in new settings, where pilot schemes could be initiated as part of broader assistance projects, in such areas as ethnic strife and United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Note

a/ General Assembly resolution 45/116, annex, of 14 December 1990.